CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   receiving, in a computer system, a set of alternative choices;

3   receiving, in the computer system, a set of criteria by which the set of

4   alternative choices may be evaluated;

5   receiving, in the computer system via a data network coupled to the

6   computer system, a set of assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals

7   via the computer network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the

8   set of criteria and comprising a set of weights that indicate importance of respective

9   criteria from the set of criteria and a set of evaluations that correspond to possible

10   attributes of the respective criteria; and

11   based on the assessments, providing a relative analysis of the alternative

12   choices;

13   wherein the assessments include pairwise comparison combined with direct

14   entry.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the assessments include evaluation of

2   alternatives using pairwise comparison combined with direct entry and multiple choice.

1   3.   The method of claim 2 including determining a shift constant.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 including determining a shift constant.

2   5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the determination of a shift constant

3   comprises reference to a substantially ideal choice.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, including performing a sensitivity analysis.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein direct entry comprises using a value

2   function to determine grades.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, including combining assessments of criteria to form

2   analysis of respective criteria not directly assessed by the set of individuals.

1   9.   A method comprising:

2   receiving, in a computer system, a set of alternative choices;

3   receiving, in the computer system, a set of criteria by which the set of

4   alternative choices may be evaluated;

5   receiving, in the computer system via a data network coupled to the

6   computer system, a set of assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals

7   via the computer network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the

8   set of criteria and comprising a set of weights that indicate importance of respective

9   criteria from the set of criteria and a set of evaluations that correspond to possible

10   attributes of the respective criteria; and

11   based on the assessments, providing a relative analysis of the alternative

12   choices;

13   wherein the assessments include pairwise comparison combined with multiple

14   choice.

1   10.   The method of claim 9, wherein the assessments include evaluation of

2   alternatives using pairwise comparison combined with direct entry and multiple choice

1   11.   A system comprising logic in a computer system that:

2   receives a set of alternative choices;

3   receives a set of criteria by which the set of alternative choices may be

4   evaluated;

5   receives, via a data network coupled to the computer system, a set of

6   assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals via the computer

7   network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the set of

8   criteria and comprising a set of weights and a set of evaluations; and

9   based on the assessments, provides a relative analysis of the alternative

10   choices;

11   wherein the assessments include pairwise comparison combined with at least one

12   of direct entry and multiple choice.

1   12.   The system of claim 11, wherein the logic comprises software.

1   13.   The system of claim 11, wherein the logic comprises electronic hardware.

1   14.   The system of claim 11, including determining of weights using pairwise

2   comparison combined with direct entry.

1   15.   The system of claim 11, including evaluating alternatives using pairwise

2   comparison combined with multiple choice.

1   16.   A method comprising:

2   receiving, in a computer system, a set of alternative choices;

3   receiving, in the computer system, a set of criteria by which the set of

4   alternative choices may be evaluated;

5   receiving, in the computer system via a data network coupled to the

6   computer system, a set of assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals

7   via the computer network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the

8   set of criteria and comprising a set of weights and a set of evaluations, and wherein the

9   assessments include pairwise comparison;

10   providing a solution that avoids iterative computations; and

11   based on the solution, providing a relative analysis of the alternative

12   choices.

1   17.   The method of claim 16, wherein the solution comprises determining an

2   inverse matrix.

1   18.   The method of claim 16, wherein the solution comprises:

2   determining at least one pairwise comparison matrix corresponding to at least one

3 individual from the set of individuals;

4   determining a cardinality matrix corresponding to the pairwise comparison

5 matrices;

6   determining a cardinality summation matrix comprising the row totals of the

7 cardinality matrix;

8   determining an intermediate matrix by subtracting the cardinality matrix from the

9 cardinality summation matrix;

10   determining an inverse intermediate matrix by evaluating the matrix-inverse of the

11 intermediate matrix;

12   determining a summation pairwise matrix by summing together the pairwise

13 comparison matrices; and

14   based on a multiplication of the inverse intermediate matrix, the summation

15 pairwise matrix and a unit column vector; providing a relative analysis of the alternative

16 choices.

1   19.   The method of claim 16, wherein the relative analysis of the alternative

2 choices comprises determination of a measure of consistency of the assessments.

1   20.   The method of claim 16, including leaving blank a respective entry in the

2 pairwise comparison matrix to account for an assessment not provided by an individual

3 providing fewer assessments than the total possible number of assessments available for

4 the set of alternatives.